REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 1, 11, and 17 are amended.

The Examiner has not acknowledged the IDS that was filed April 2, 2002. Applicants respectfully request acknowledgment of the above-mentioned IDS by initialing and returning the attached copy of the same IDS.

The specification is amended to correct typographical errors. No new matter is added.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. In view of the amendment to claim 1, it is respectfully requested that the above rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Rakib (US 6,889,385 B1). In view of the above amendments and following remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance, therefore, reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

The present invention is directed to a multi-channel Voice over IP method and system that exchange voice and data packets between an IP network, a number of media terminal adapters, and a telephone over the telephone line. In contrast, Rakib describes a system for providing video-on-demand service and broadband internet access to customer sites. The system of Rakib does not exchange voice and data packets between an IP network, a number of media terminal adapters, and a telephone over the telephone line.

More specifically, amended independent claim 1 includes, among other limitations, "a gateway coupled to the telephone

line and an internet protocol (IP) network, and configured to exchange voice and data packets between the IP network, each of the media terminal adapters, and the telephone over the telephone line, wherein the gateway receives a packet payload from the IP network and determines if the received packet payload is voice packet or data packet, if the received packet payload is a voice packet, the gateway further determines if the voice packet is destined for the telephone or a media terminal adapter, if the voice packet is destined for the telephone, the gateway depacketizes the voice packet and transmits the depacketized voice data to the telephone, if the voice packet is destined for the media terminal adapter, the gateway reformats the voice packet and transmits the reformatted voice packet to the media terminal adapter." Rakib does not teach nor does it suggest the above limitations.

Rather, in Rakib, the gateways at customer sites interface to a headend source, "recover digital data from the source or digitize incoming analog signals, . . . encapsulate the data into IP packets and then into LAN packets and route the packets to the peripheral that requested the program/service." (Col. 13, line 60 to col. 14, line 4, underlining added.). Furthermore, Rakib makes it clear that "telephony works the same way," in which, data bytes from T1 timeslots assigned to a particular conversation are packetized "into IP packets addressed to, for example, [digital] telephone 108. These IP packets . . . are then transmitted downstream to gateway 28 . . .. At gateway 28, the IP packets addressed to telephone 108 are recovered and encapsulated into Ethernet or other LAN packets

addressed to telephone 108. At the telephone, the Ethernet packets are received and the encapsulated IP packets are recovered. . .." (Col. 14, line 56 to col. 15, line 5, underlining added.).

Therefore, the gateways of Rakib receive analog or digital data from a headend, convert the received data to IP packets for transmission over a LAN to digital peripheral devices, such as the digital telephone 108. In contrast, the claimed gateway of the present invention is capable of receiving VoIP and transmitting the received voice packet to a (non-digital) telephone or to a media terminal adapter.

There is no teaching or suggestion in Rakib about "if the voice packet is destined for the telephone, the gateway depacketizes the voice packet and transmits the depacketized voice data to the telephone, if the voice packet is destined for the media terminal adapter, the gateway reformats the voice packet and transmits the reformatted voice packet to the media terminal adapter," as recited in amended claim 11. Consequently, the amended claim 11 is not anticipated by Rakib.

Amended claims 11 and 17 include similar limitations. Therefore, claims 1 and 17 are not anticipated by Rakib either.

In short, independent claims 1, 11 and 17 define a novel and unobvious invention over the cited references. Dependent claims 2-10, 12-16, and 18-20 are all dependent, directly or indirectly from independent claims 1, 11 and 17, respectively, and therefore include all the limitations of their base claims and additional limitations therein. Accordingly, these claims
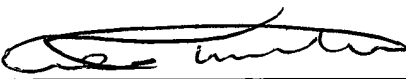
are also allowable for the same reason set forth hereinbefore as well as the additional limitations recited.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance, and accordingly, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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